

Wedding Report:

Can anyone be a wedding officiant?

Though it's been awhile since the poll was conducted, in 2017 the data-tracking firm Wedding Report surveyed couples who had recently tied the knot, and one of the questions participants answered concerned who officiated their weddings. Roughly 25 percent of couples indicated a friend or family member had served as their wedding officiant, and that figure pales in comparison to older studies, one of which determined the number was around 40 percent. But anyone who has attended more than one wedding in recent years has likely noticed that it's no

longer unique to see laypersons officiate a wedding instead of more traditional officiants, which historically has meant clergy or other individuals with some formal affiliation with a house of worship. Though local or provincial governments may have their own unique rules and restrictions, in many places it's easy and open to anyone to become a licensed officiant. Couples who want a friend or family member to officiate their wedding are urged to make that request well in advance of their wedding, which can assure the person has ample time to complete the licensing process.



Brandy Bishop and Jason Milby were united in marriage July 29, 2023 at Steep Hollow in the Gabe Community with Jason Gilmore officiating the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Rhuel and Donna Bishop. She is a pharmacy buyer and Emergency Room Technician at Taylor Regional Hospital. The groom is the son of Evelyn Milby and the late Ernie Milby. He is employed as a truck driver and Blake Edwards Farms. The couple resides in the Lower Gabe Community.

*Congratulations to
all of the newlyweds*

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